(ख) यदि हां, तो यह सिल्क किस दर पर आयात किया जा रहा है, और हमारे देश में कच्चे रेशम (रॉ-सिल्क) का बाजार मूल्य क्या हैं,

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि घरेलू कच्चे रेशम (रॉ-सिल्क) उत्पादकों ने इस आयात का विरोध किया है, और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस पर सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री काशी राम राणा) : (क) से (घ) जी नहीं। केन्द्रीय सरकार ने चीन से अपरिष्कृत रेशम का आयात करने का निर्णय नहीं लिया है। विद्यमान नीति के अनुसार निर्यातकों की मांग को पूरा करने के लिए सरकार ने शुल्क मुक्त योजना के अंतर्गत अपरिष्कृत रेशम का आयात करने की अनुमति दी है, जहां निर्यातकों को अपरिष्कृत रेशम को शुल्क मुक्त लाने की अनुमति है, जो कि निर्यात दायित्व से जुडी है। इसके अतिरिक्त, अक्तूबर, 1998 में विशेष आयात लाइसेंस (एस.आई.एल.) के अतंर्गत ग्रेड 2ए और उससे अधिक की शहतूती अपरिष्कृत रेशम का आयात करने केअनुमति देने का निर्णय इस शर्त पर लिया गया है कि अभ्यर्पित एस.आई.एल. का मूल्य आयातित मद के मूल्य से तिगुना होगा। उच्च ग्रेड के रेशम के आयात की अनुमति देने के निर्णय के विरूद्ध रेशम उपजकर्ताओं के विशेषकर कर्नाटक के एक वर्ग से अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं क्योंकि वे ऐसा महसूस करते हैं कि इसका घरेलू रेशम की कीमतों पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ेगा।अभी तक ऐसा कोई प्रतिकूल प्रभाव नहीं पडा है। मंत्रालय स्थिति पर कडी निगरानी रखे हुए हैं।

Per Capita Availability of Cloth

1703. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the per capita availability of Cloth during the Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plan period, Plan-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RAN A): The details of per capita availability of Cloth during the Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plan period are given below:-

Per Capita Availability of Cloth

Seventh Five Year Plan	(in Sq. mts.)
1985-86	21.55
1986-87	21.84
1987-88	20.96
1988-89	23.00
1989-90	22.65
Eighth Five Year Plan	
1992-93	24.50
1993-94	26.22
1994-95	25.98
1995-96	27.99
1996-97	29.30

Difficult situation faced by Silk Industry

1704. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the silk industry of the country is facing difficult situation;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures Government proposes to take?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) The silk industry of the country works in a situation where there is a demand and supply gap. The gap in demand, is mostly for powerloom warp quality mulberry silk and towards this end imports have been facilitated. In respect of the non-mulberry sector, except in Eri production, rearing in the case of tasar & muga silk is conducted out doors, in view of which there is instability in production. The difficulties that the silk industry is facing can be traced largely to the decentralised nature of the industry, inadequate quality seed and slow absorption of the technologies in respect of rearing and reeling due to the small actors who are largely dispersed. Quantity shortage in respect of raw silk and wide variation in quality are the concomitant difficulties.

(c) The Research and development institutes of the Central Silk Board have developed technologies to improve the quality of silk and increase the productivity through generation of superior technologies for food plant cultivation, silkworm rearing and in

reeling areas. Efforts are being intensified to transfer these technologes to the States with the help of the State Departments of Sericulture. To meet the demand for warp quality mulberry silk imports have been facilitated. The Ninth Plan envisages an increase in the production of mulberry raw silk by 6000 tonnes and 540 tonnes of non-mulberry silk through research & development, transfer of technology, seed support and assistance to States. Apart from the north East Action Plan and the Poorvanchal Sericulture Project which are continuing from the VIIIth Plan, the Govt, of India has sanctioned implementation of 36 Catalytic Development Schemes during IXth Plan, Besides, the States of Madhya Pradesh and Manipur have undertaken implementation of the Project with financial assistance from Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan in respect of tasar and mulberry sericulture respectively. The project in Madhya Pradesh envisages development of 4000 hectares of tasar food plants and increased production of 75 tonnes of tasar raw silk per annum after the project period. The project in Manipur aims at increased production of 60 tonnes of mulberry raw silk per annum after the project period. The Govt, fo Uttar Pradesh under the Diversified Agricultural Project has envisaged a 750 tonnes per year increase in silk production with World Bank assistance. Besides, the Central Silk Board, has prepared an integrated Project for Muga and Eri. In addition development programmes for non-mulberry silk will be taken up with UNDP assistance from 1999-2000 under the Fibres and Handicrafts Programme.

Impact of price cut by Bangladesh on Indian jute exports

1705. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minsiter of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that India is losing ground in the global jute market due to price cutting by Bangladesh jute mills;

(b) if so, whether Government plan to give extra subsidy for export of jute goods; and

(c) if not, how Government plan to help increase the export of jute goods?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASH1RAM RANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is already implementing an External Market Assistance Scheme (EMA), under which assistance at specified rates is provided for export of certain categories of jute goods. The scheme is reviewed from time to time to make it more rational and effective. The number of products eligible under EMA scheme has been increased from three to eight in the last two years.

(c) Does not arise.

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PROCLAMATION UNDER ARTICLE 356 OF THE CONSTITUTION IN RELATION TO STATE OF BIHAR

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Before the hon. Home Minister lays a copy of the Proclamation in connection with the revocation of President's Rule in Bihar, under clause (2) of article 356 on the Table of the House, my most respectful submission, through you, to the Government would be that the Presidential Proclamation was revoked on 8th night. We were informed by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that the Cabinet had decided that the formalities were to be complied with, after the President's return from outside. One can understand that the decision was taken in the evening, when Parliament was not in Session. But yesterday, we sat for the whole day. Neither of the House was informed officially by the Government that the earlier Presidential Proclamation has been revoked by another Proclamation, this is just a constitutional requirement and no heavy homework is called for. I do not understand why the Government did not inform the House, the Parliament. Even when we were in Session, neighter of the House was informed. At least, this House was not informed. I was sitting here from 11 o'clock till the adjournment of the House. None of the representatives of the Government came and told us that the Presidential Proclamation has been withdrawn. Everything is being taken casually, and this is highly objectionable. Particularly, the Union Home Minister, who was the Leader of this